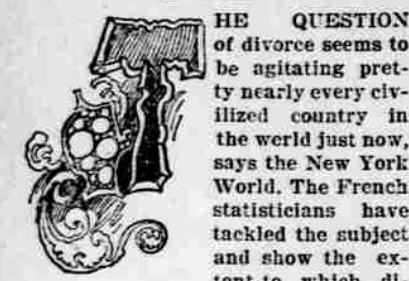


PHASES OF DIVORCE.

LAWS IN ALL COUNTRIES FOR UNDOING THE MARRIAGE.

Queer Burmese and Chinese Customs—Distinguished Romans Who Cast Off Their Wives—Spouses of Julius Caesar and Mark Antony.



THE QUESTION of divorce seems to be agitating pretty nearly every civilized country in the world just now, says the New York World. The French statisticians have tackled the subject and show the extent to which divorce has grown in France. From 1881 to 1894 applications for divorce in France have exceeded 45,000, of which 40,000 have been granted.

M. Naquet, in urging the passage of the divorce law in France, optimistically predicted that it would prevent many ruptures and that married couples would remain more firmly united from the fact that their tie would not be compulsory. Unfortunately exactly the contrary was the result. The first year after the law was passed showed 1,700 divorces; last year there were over 8,000. When separations alone were permitted they only reached 3,000. While in 1882 the proportion was only 1 to 1,000, today it is 25 in 1,000.

From the history of divorce it appears that the proportion of unhappy marriages increases from the day divorce is legalized in a country. It appears among people of the highest civilization at the period of their decadence; from that time can be dated a retrograde movement in morals. The Bible says that if a man, after marrying a woman and living with her, conceives a disgust of her from some shameful fault he shall draw out a decree of divorce, and, putting it into the woman's hands, shall send her out of the house. This was not always easily accomplished, because the majority of people did not know how to write, and the Levite or priest whom they consulted could refuse to grant their application if he saw fit.

In Egypt the law authorized no divorce except in certain cases. Infidelity was punished severely; the man received 1,000 stripes and the woman's nose was cut. In Babylon a public auction of all the girls of a marriageable age was held once a year. The untying of these knots was even more simple.

Confucius, writing on Chinese laws, established seven causes of repudiation, among which it appears that the wife could be put aside for excessive gossip or for not getting along with her father or mother in law. But there was this proviso: "The husband is advised to retain her if she will wear mourning for her mother in law for three years." As a matter of fact, the Chinese resort to the divorce courts very little and they hold a widow marrying a second time in the utmost contempt. This custom is somewhat similar to that of the Hindus in former years, when the widows flung themselves on the burning woodpiles upon which their husbands' bodies were being consumed.

India recognizes certain causes for divorce. Up to the commencement of this century a childless Hindoo was permitted to lend his wife to a brother or other male relative in order to have children. In Burmah the women when marrying do not take their husbands' names, but retain their own, with the addendum of "wife of So-and-So." This makes it convenient for them to assume their previous status in public knowledge when they come to be divorced, as they are very likely to be, for divorce is easy in that country.

If a Burmese wife and husband quarrel and determine to separate the wife, who always does all the marketing, goes out and buys two little candles of equal length, which are made especially for this use. She brings them home. She and her husband sit down on the floor, place the candles between them and light them simultaneously. One candle stands for him and the other for her. The one whose candle burns out first rises and goes out of the house forever, with nothing but what he or she may have on. The other takes all the property.

This looks fair enough on the face of it, but it often happens that the wife on her way home with the candles takes a tiny scrap from the bottom of one of them. A very little will be enough. If the husband and the house are empty of pretty much everything but children she takes the shortened candle and walks out free and content. But if the house is well furnished and the husband's possessions are considerable he gets the short candle and does the walking.

In Greece the main idea in marrying was to bring children into the world—males especially—for the good of the country; hence the great facility offered for the breaking of the marriage tie in case of sterility. The legislators recognized their right of divorce. At Athens divorce could be obtained by demand of one of the parties or by mutual consent. The case was argued before a tribunal. The parties on being freed were expressly forbidden to marry with a person younger than themselves. Grecian wives convicted of breaking the seventh commandment were put to death, after having their hair cut off and their heads covered with ash.

This barbarous custom was also practiced in Rome after the conquest of Carthage and Corinth. The Romans, masters of the world, only indulged in reveling in their riches, and themselves adrift from the austere

rules of virtue which had been theirs for centuries. Civil marriages and religious marriages were little by little cut into by divorce, which spread to such an extent as to almost suppress marriage. Nearly every cause was admitted—infidelity, sickness, old age, drunkenness, poison (which was very prevalent), going into the church, the army—and, lastly, mutual consent. The husband had the right to demand divorce if the wife obtained false keys to the cellar, or if she went "gadding" to the theater or circus to the neglect of her household duties.

All these reasons were but pretexts, after all. The virtuous Cato obtained a divorce in order to marry Marcia; Scilla remarried with a woman whom he met at the circus; Cicero repudiated his wife to take Publilia, whose riches would enable him to pay off all his creditors; Caesar and Antony contracted four successive marriages; Pompey went as far as five. Juvenal felt justified in saying that faithful spouses were as rare as "white crows" or, as we say to-day, as "white-blackbirds."

240,000 POUNDS OF CRACKERS.

Immense Daily Output of the New York Bakers.

The great industry which is carried on by the manufacturing bakers of New York city is very extensive, says the Mail and Express. An expert in this business, in talking with a reporter, made the estimate that no less than \$20,500,000 would represent the amount of capital invested in this business. There are two great baking firms alone in New York, each of which is capitalized at \$10,000,000, and there are any number of smaller firms, including the small bakeries, with a capital of \$50,000 to \$100,000, which turn out a limited quantity of goods, mostly of a special kind. The manufacture of biscuit and crackers is practically a new industry in this country, but in the past ten or fifteen years the manufacturers of New York have made the discovery that they can turn out just as good crackers and biscuit as are produced in England, which is a great biscuit-eating country and the home of the cracker and biscuit-producing manufacturers. The reasons given by the manufacturing bakers for their great success in New York are that the city is the easiest place in this country to get supplies and also it is the distributing point for a large amount of business. New York city alone calls for so many goods each year that one of the \$10,000,000-plants working night and day would be quite unable to supply the home market. One plant of very large proportions in New York is able to convert 1,200 barrels of flour into crackers in one day. This means 240,000 pounds of crackers. The capacity of another large plant is 160,000 pounds of fancy goods, like ginger snaps and wafers, in one day. One large bread bakery has been known to take 600 barrels of flour in a day and turn it into bread.

Travel by Dog Power.

F. D. Kennedy of Grand Forks, N. D., is getting ready for a trip around the world, and expects to start within thirty days. On the trip he will be accompanied by a friend, W. H. Whitnall. The journey will be made in a neat and serviceable bicycle wagon drawn by four pairs of big Newfoundland dogs, each weighing from 60 to 200 pounds. The start will be made from Grand Forks in a light sleigh, which will be used as far as possible, and after that the bicycle wagon, with its aluminium box, will be brought into service. Then the route will be direct to New York, where steamer will be taken for Liverpool, and the principal points in the British Isles visited. From there the trip will be made to the principal cities of the continent, then on to the orient and the shores of the Pacific.

Falsehood.

Liars are the goths and vandals of society; they take delight in distorting and debasing the fair name of truth; they are hateful in the sight of Almighty God, and they are to be despised by all truth-loving men.—Rev. James McLeod.

PEN AND INK

A paper is to be published in Madrid, La Tola Cordata, printed on white linen; after it has been read the buyer can put it in his pocket, where it serves the purpose of a handkerchief.

Judge Albion W. Tourgee has undertaken a crusade against books with uncut leaves, which he pronounces "a senseless and snobbish fad."

Dr. Caesar Lombroso, the great authority on criminology, has been, according to report, convicted of literary piracy and fined 2,500 francs.

Some of Prof. Richard T. Ely's works on sociological questions have been translated into Japanese and a work on economics has been printed in raised characters for the blind.

The Realm, an English journal started a few months ago with a great flourish, by Lady Collin Campbell, has suspended. It is expected that it will be revived by other parties.

Prof. John Fiske reiterates his belief in the truthfulness of the story of Pocahontas and John Smith. He says the story cannot be doubted by any one who honestly investigates it.

There is no other work in the world of which so many copies are printed annually as the Chinese almanac. It is printed at Peking and is a monopoly of the emperor. It not only predicts the weather but notes the days that are lucky for beginning any undertaking, for marrying and for burying.

MISS MARTHA IRMLER.

AN AMERICAN DANCER'S TRIUMPH IN LONDON.

Has Been Selected by Mme. Launer as the Premier at the Empire Theatre—She Is Also a Noted Beauty—Press Comment.



URING the past five years Martha Irmeler has been a distinguished and graceful figure as the exponent of classic dancing on the American stage. She first appeared in this country as the premiere danseuse of the German Opera Company at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York. After she had concluded her season's engagement on that famous stage Manager Henderson secured her artistic services, and she then became the premier of the American Extravaganza Company, and was a prominent figure in the splendid spectacular productions of the halcyon days under the Henderson regime. During her stay in this country, Paladino, Antoinette Bella, De Rosa, Urbanska, Theodora de Gilbert and Cereelli, all famous terpsichorean stars, have danced their day, but none has found more favor as a classic dancer than Fraulein Irmeler. It may be gratifying to the admirers of her art in every large city, from New York to San Francisco, to state that she has just been complimented in substantial fashion as having been selected the premier danseuse at the Empire in London, where the ballet probably surpasses anything of the kind in continental Europe. She had an offer from the Alhambra, but the Empire appears to have been the successful bidder for her services.

Mme. Katti Launer, far-famed as a



ANGELA M'CAULL.

ballet mistress, has charge of the ballet at the Empire and took a great fancy to the artistic dancing and physical gleams of Frl. Irmeler, and the wisdom of her judgment is echoed by the London press, as a few excerpts may indicate. The Times said: "An event of the evening was the first appearance in England of Mlle. M. Irmeler, who gave a very agreeable idea of the stately style of Taglioni, her work 'on the points' being particularly good, and her attitudes having all the elegance of ballet dancing in the 'forties.' Mlle. Irmeler created an excellent impression, and is doubtless as charming in the modern school of ballet as she is when imitating a fashion of the past." Another paper says: "The ballet 'La Danse' is noteworthy, moreover, for the introduction to an English audience of Mlle. M. Irmeler, premier danseuse, as



Mme. Taglioni (period 1845). We have had no such lovely premiere danseuse since the days of Legrand at the Alhambra. It is somewhat remarkable that the most distinguished dancers have, as a rule, very inconsiderable personal charms, however accomplished they may be in the convention of their profession. Mlle. Irmeler is especially charming, when, in the long white muslin skirt of the period, she represents the great Taglioni." While still another states: "It is a success, and Mlle. Irmeler, the new premiere danseuse, does much to assure it. She is handsome, has a lovely figure, and dances without effort." Frl. Irmeler succeeded the Russian Princess Bartho, whose sister is at present the premier with the Henderson company.

ANGELA M'CAULL.

The Vivacious Daughter of the Late Well-Known Impresario.

Angela McCaull is a daughter of the late Col. John A. McCaull, the well known impresario. She was born in Richmond, Va., in 1877, and will in March next complete her nineteenth year. She made her professional debut with the Manola-Mason Co. in Lexington, Ky., in the spring of 1894. The following season, 1894-5, she was a member of Richard Mansfield's Co., and served an apprenticeship as an actress playing maids. This season she was selected by David Belasco for the role of Nannie, in "The Heart of Maryland." This is the first role which Miss McCaull has created, and the success she has won therein is greatly to her credit. She has added interest to the role even beyond that conferred upon it by the author. The play has enjoyed at the Herald Square Theater a very lengthy run, being now on its eighteenth week, and Miss McCaull's sprightly and intelligent performance has won for her the hearty approval of all. She has been re-engaged for the same role for next season, when the play will be seen upon the road, and it is safe to say that the many who will give her kindly greeting as the daughter of their departed friend will add many plaudits for her own sake, as they fall under the spell of her charming personality. To her natural ability Miss McCaull has added earnest striving, and she deserves success.

Anti-Pool Room Legislation.

Mr. Gillett, of Massachusetts, on Feb. 13, introduced in the house at Washington, D. C., a bill forbidding, under a penalty of imprisonment or fine, "the transmission by telegraph or telephone or mail or express or otherwise, from

Congress has appropriated \$75,000 to pay the joint expenses of a commission to survey the boundary line between Alaska and British America.

It is reported that a cable will soon be laid between Iceland and the Shetland Islands, the northernmost point of the British telegraph system.

Don't Be Too Late for the Steamer. And don't omit when you are packing up your effects preparatory for the voyage, to include among them a supply of Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, the great remedy for sea sickness. Travelers for pleasure or business seeking foreign climes, or who lo-comote by steamboat or train, besides yachtsmen and mariners, testify to the remedial and preventive efficacy of the Bitters, which is incomparable for nausea, headache, dyspepsia, biliousness, rheumatism, nervous and kidney trouble.

It is announced that the skin of a so-called serpent, measuring sixty-four feet in length, is on exhibition at the Bombay Zoo.

Women are now not allowed to sing in the churches.

Free to "Comrades." The latest photograph of the Hon. I. N. Walker, commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic. Write to F. H. Lord, Quincy Building, Chicago, and you will receive one free.

In Germany a merchant was recently fined heavily for using a quotation from the Bible at the head of an advertisement.

"A Word...in Season."

The season is Spring.—Spring when you call on your body for all its energy, and tax it to the limit of effort. Does it answer you when you call? Does it creep unwillingly to work? It's the natural effect of the waste of winter. So much for the season. Now for the word. If you would eat heartily, sleep soundly, work easily, and feel like a new being, take

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